

§ 265.15

shall be filed no later than 30 days after the date of the determination. The Administrator may extend the time for filing or waive the time limit in the interest of justice, specifying in writing the reasons for so doing. Third parties who have reason to believe that a business has been wrongly denied or granted status as an MBE may advise the Administrator. This information is not considered an appeal pursuant to this section.

(b) *Decision to investigate.* The Administrator ensures that a prompt investigation is made of those cases with investigative merit (except those being reviewed on the merits by the Comptroller General), pursuant to prescribed DOT Title VI (49 CFR part 21) investigation procedures.

(c) *Status during the investigation.* The Administrator may deny the business in question eligibility to participate as an MBE in direct or FRA-assisted contracts let during the pendency of the investigation, after providing the business in question an opportunity to show cause by written statement to the Administrator why this should not occur.

(d) *Cooperation in investigation.* All parties shall cooperate fully with the investigation. Failure or refusal to furnish relevant information or other failure to cooperate is a violation of this part.

(e) *Determinations.* The Administrator will make one of the following determinations and so inform the business in writing of the reasons for the determination:

(1) The business is considered to be an MBE within the meaning of this part; or

(2) The business is not considered to be an MBE within the meaning of this part and is denied eligibility to participate as an MBE in any direct or FRA-assisted contract until a further determination is made by FRA that the business is an MBE within the meaning of this part.

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§ 265.15 Implementation and maintenance of affirmative action program.

The affirmative action program with respect to employment and procure-

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ment practices shall set forth in detail applicant's recipient's or contractor's program to implement and maintain its recommended action program to insure that persons and businesses are not discriminated against because of race, color, national origin or sex, and that minorities and MBEs have equal employment and contractual opportunities with applicant, recipient or contractor. In developing its maintenance program for employment, applicants, recipients and contractors shall follow the applicable regulations of the Department of Labor implementing Executive Order 11246 at 41 CFR 60-2, subpart C, which provisions may also be helpful in implementing and maintaining applicant's recipient's or contractor's procurement program.

§ 265.17 Review of affirmative action program.

(a) Except as provided for contractors and subcontractors in § 265.11(b), each affirmative action program to be acceptable must have the written approval of the Administrator.

(b) The Administrator recognizes that there may be some exceptional situations where the requirements of § 265.13 through § 265.15 may not fulfill the affirmative action objectives sought or that those objectives may be better achieved through modified or different requirements. Accordingly, the applicant, recipient or contractor may request approval for modified or different requirements that embody the objectives of §§ 265.13 through 265.15. Such a request must include detailed showings that the particular situation is exceptional and that the modified or different proposals substantially comply with the objectives of this part. If the Administrator determines that the requirements for a detailed justification have been met, he may waive or modify these requirements or impose different requirements as he deems necessary to further the objectives sought herein.

Subpart C—Compliance

§ 265.19 Compliance information.

(a) Each recipient and contractor shall keep such records and submit to

the Administrator complete and accurate reports, at such times, and in such form, and containing such information as the Administrator may determine to be necessary to enable him to ascertain whether the recipient or contractor has complied or is complying with this part. These records shall show in connection with the project, program or activity funded in whole or in part through financial assistance under the Rail Acts:

(1) Procedures which have been adopted to comply with the policies set forth in this part, including the establishment of a source list of MBEs;

(2) Specific efforts to identify and award contracts to MBEs; and

(3) Awards to MBEs on the source list required in paragraph (a)(1) of this section.

(b) Each recipient and contractor shall permit access by the Administrator during normal business hours to such of its books, records, accounts and other sources of information and its facilities as may in the opinion of the Administrator be necessary to ascertain compliance with this part.

(c) Each recipient and contractor shall make available to participants, beneficiaries and other interested persons, such information regarding the provisions of this part and the applicability to the program, project or activity under which the recipient received financial assistance from the Rail Acts or under which the contractor is awarded a contract and make such information available to them in such manner as the Administrator finds necessary to apprise such persons of the protections against discrimination assured them by the Act and this part.

§ 265.21 Conduct of investigations.

(a) The Administrator shall from time to time review the practices of recipients and contractors to determine whether they are complying with this part. The Administrator shall to the fullest extent practicable seek the cooperation of recipients and contractors in obtaining compliance with this part and shall provide assistance and guidance to recipients and contractors to help them comply voluntarily with this part. As required by § 265.7(a)(6) of this part recipients and contractors shall

from time to time review the practices of their contractors and subcontractors to determine whether they are complying with this part.

(b) Any person who believes himself or herself or any other person to be subjected to discrimination prohibited by this part, may file with the Administrator a written complaint. A complaint must be filed not later than sixty (60) days after the date complainant discovers the alleged discrimination, unless the time for filing is extended by the Administrator.

(c) The Administrator will make a prompt investigation in cases where a compliance review, report, complaint or other information indicates a possible failure to comply with this part.

(d)(1) If an investigation pursuant to paragraph (c) of this section indicates a failure to comply with this part, the Administrator shall within ten (10) days after such determination so inform the recipient or contractor in writing of the specific grounds for alleging noncompliance and the matter shall be resolved by informal means whenever possible. The notice shall provide that, if it has been determined that the matter is not resolved by informal means within thirty (30) days after the delivery of the notice, action will be taken as provided for in § 265.23.

(2) If an investigation does not warrant action pursuant to paragraph (d)(1) of this section, the Administrator shall within ten (10) days after such determination so inform the recipient, or contractor and the complainant, if any, in writing.

(e) No recipient, contractor or other person shall intimidate, threaten, coerce or discriminate against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by section 905 of the Act or this part, or because he or she made a complaint, testified, assisted or participated in any manner in an investigation, proceeding or hearing under this part. The identity of complainants shall be kept confidential at their election during the conduct of any investigation, proceeding or hearing under this part. But when such confidentiality is likely to hinder the investigation the complainant will be advised for the purpose of waiving the privilege.